

Message Text

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APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

EUR:AAHARTMAN

C:HSonnenfeldt

S/S: MR. LUERS

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TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS

USMISSION GENEVA

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AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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EXDIS

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SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S CONVERSATIONSWITH GROMYKO,

SEPTEMBER 20 AND 24

REF: USNATO 5109

VIENNA FOR MBFR DEL; GENEVA FOR CSCE DEL

1. YOU MAY DRAW ON FOLLOWING IN BRIEFING LUNS AND
PERMREPS ON HIGHLIGHTS OF SECRETARY'S SEPTEMBER 20 AND 24
CONVERSATIONS WITH GROMYKO.

2. CSCE. WITH REGARD TO CBM'S, GROMYKO SUGGESTED THAT
THE ISSUE OF TROOP MOVEMENTS BE POSTPONED FOR LATER
DISCUSSIONS AND STUDY, AND INDICATED THAT IT WOULD BE
IMPOSSIBLE TO ACCEPT A LEVEL OF 20,000 MEN FOR PRIOR

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NOTIFICATION OF MANEUVERS BECAUSE IT WAS AN ARTIFICIAL

NUMBER AND WOULD ENTAIL MANY CLERICAL PROBLEMS. IN RESPONSE TO THE SECRETARY'S QUESTION AS TO HOW CSCE SHOULD PROCEED, GROMYKO SAID AGREEMENT SHOULD BE REACHED ON THE QUESTION OF MANEUVERS AND TROOP NUMBERS, THOUGH HE SUGGESTED THE LATTER BE LEFT FOR FURTHER STUDY. HE SUGGESTED ALSO THAT CSCE EXAMINE THE QUESTION OF VOLUNTARY OBSERVERS, WHICH HE SAID HAD ARISEN IN HIS DISCUSSIONS IN BONN AND WHICH WOULD BE A MORAL OBLIGATION AND MUCH MORE FLEXIBLE.

3. ON BASKET 3, GROMYKO SAID HE FELT THE PROBLEM HAD BEEN RESOLVED ON THE BASIS OF THE FINNISH COMPROMISE. REPLYING TO THE SECRETARY'S QUESTION AS TO WHY GROMYKO WAS SANGUINE, THE LATTER SAID THE FINNISH COMPROMISE WILL MAKE BASKET 3 EASIER TO DEAL WITH. HOWEVER, GROMYKO ALSO SAID THAT THERE WERE TOO MANY WESTERN PROPOSALS.

4. WITH REGARD TO THE ISSUE OF THE LANGUAGE ON EQUAL VALIDITY OF PRINCIPLES, GROMYKO EXPRESSED PREFERENCE FOR THE FORMULATION, "THE PRINCIPLES SHOULD BE EQUALLY STRICTLY OBSERVED," ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE QUESTIONS OF FRONTIER INVIOABILITY AND ISSUING VISAS WERE NOT EQUALLY IMPORTANT. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT ALL OF THE PRINCIPLES ARE EQUAL, AND INDICATED US CONCERN THAT THEY BE OBSERVED. HE AGREED, HOWEVER, TO CONSIDER THE SOVIET PROPOSAL IN CONSULTATION WITH ALLIES.

5. CONCERNING PEACEFUL CHANGE OF FRONTIERS, GROMYKO STATED CONCERN THAT THE TEXT TABLED BY THE US SEEMED TO IMPLY THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT PURPOSE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW IS TO CHANGE FRONTIERS. THUS, HE EXPRESSED A STRONG PREFERENCE FOR THE LANGUAGE ON PEACEFUL CHANGE EARLIER PUT FORWARD BY THE WESTERN SIDE. IN THIS CONNECTION, GROMYKO WAS TOLD THAT THE EARLIER FORMULATION HAD BEEN DEVELOPED FOR INCLUSION IN THE PRINCIPLE ON INVIOABILITY OF FRONTIERS, AND THAT WE BELIEVE THE NEW FORMULATION IS MORE APPROPRIATE FOR INCLUSION IN THE PRINCIPLE ON SOVEREIGN EQUALITY.

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6. GROMYKO REFERRED TO THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CSCE AND MBFR, AND SAID THAT THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF CSCE WOULD IMPROVE THE GENERAL POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE TO THE BENEFIT OF MBFR NEGOTIATIONS.

7. MBFR. THE DISCUSSION WAS INCONCLUSIVE. SPECIFICALLY, HOWEVER, GROMYKO REITERATED STANDARD SOVIET VIEWS AND THE SECRETARY PROBED FOR INDICATIONS OF FLEXIBILITY,

UNDERLINING ALLIED INTEREST IN ACHIEVING A COMMON CEILING.

8. CYPRUS. GROMYKO EXPRESSED UNHAPPINESS THAT THE US HAD NOT SUPPORTED THE SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR AN EXPANDED PARTICIPATION IN NEGOTIATIONS ON CYPRUS. IN RESPONSE HE WAS TOLD THAT THE US DID NOT BELIEVE THE SOVIET PROPOSAL WAS ACCEPTABLE TO ALL THE PARTIES DIRECTLY INVOLVED.

9. SECRETARY'S VISIT TO THE USSR. THE DATE OF THE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO THE USSR PROBABLY WILL BE ANNOUNCED

NEXT WEEK. WE HOPE TO BE IN A POSITION TO INFORM THE ALLIES IN ADVANCE OF THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT.

10. FOR CSCE DEL: YOU MAY DRAW ON CSCE PORTION OF FOREGOING IN BRIEFING ALLIED CAUCUS IN GENEVA.

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